

Tails from Minnesota

Summer 2011



Teresa & Dinah pg. 3



Thomas & Hattie pg. 4



Nick & Castiel pg. 5



Jim & Jewel pg. 6



Kim & Tagg pg. 7



*"Everything He
Wanted and More"*
Page 6



www.can-do-canines.org

Volume 22 Issue 3



In 1988, Lucky, pictured above, was the first dog we adopted from an animal shelter. She was homeless and was scheduled to be euthanized that day. Lucky served as our demonstration dog for 11 years. She is symbolic of our commitment to save homeless dogs while fulfilling our mission to serve people with disabilities.

Tails From Minnesota

Published quarterly for friends and supporters of

Can Do Canines

ASSISTANCE DOGS

Editor/Layout/Design

Alan M. Peters Sue Schuster
Shelly Hiemer

Can Do Canines is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for people with disabilities by creating mutually beneficial partnerships with specially trained dogs.

We envision a future in which every person who needs and wants an assistance dog can have one.

Assistance dogs provide the gifts of freedom, independence, and peace of mind to our clients and their families. Our fully trained dogs, often adopted from local animal shelters, are provided to our clients who live with disabilities that involve mobility challenges, hearing loss or deafness, seizure disorders, autism, or diabetes complicated by hypoglycemia unawareness.

Dogs, training and supplies are provided to each client free of charge.

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From the Executive Director

Campaign for Independence

I am thrilled to announce that our capital campaign, the Campaign for Independence, has achieved 82% of our total goal of \$4.4 million in pledges and cash gifts. Isn't this fantastic! I want to thank everyone who has helped with the campaign so far.

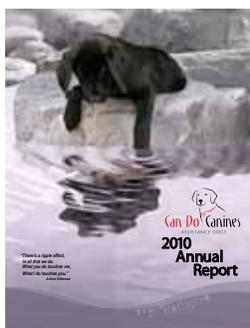
The remaining 18% represents \$791,835, so completing the campaign will be no small feat. However, because we are confident in the support of our contributors, we have moved forward with plans to complete the facility during July and August of this year.

When done, we will have rehabilitated all the office space, finished the caretaker apartment and client overnight room, constructed the second wing of our state-of-the-art kennels, added a parking lot which will make our front entrance fully accessible for people with disabilities, completed an exterior facelift of the building, and have secured a \$1 million endowment for the future care of the facility.

Completing the campaign will allow us to pay all the expenses of acquiring and rehabilitating the building and will assure that all future annual support to the organization will be focused on training more assistance dogs for people with disabilities, rather than using your contribution to pay for facility costs.

We now need to ask everyone to consider helping us with an extra gift to complete the funding. Many of you will receive phone calls from volunteers or staff in the near future, asking for the opportunity to visit with you about the campaign. Please listen carefully to the information they share and open your hearts to their request.

Annual Report



I'm proud to announce the availability of our 2010 annual report. The report will be sent to some readers through the mail but will be available to everyone on our website. The annual report gives

details of the hard work that was done during 2010 and acknowledges those who made our work possible. I know you'll enjoy seeing it.

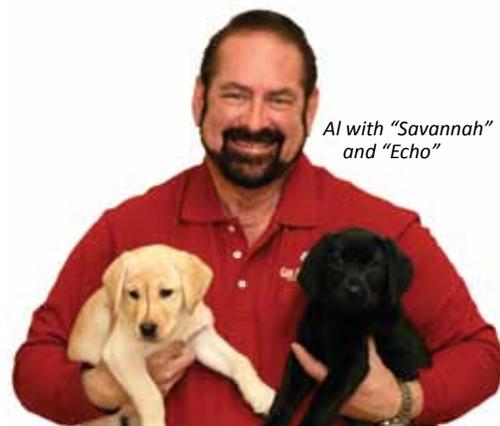
Events

Summer used to be a slow time at Can Do Canines, but it sure isn't anymore! Please mark your calendars and join me for these celebrations and fundraisers.

- Graduation on August 13.
Graduation is my absolute favorite event! Don't miss it!
- Heel and Wheel fundraising walk on August 27. If you want to meet our clients and volunteers, and have a great time too, be there. A brochure is in this issue.

And you won't want to miss the highlight of our Fall agenda:

- The Fetching Ball Gala on November 5 will be an exciting and unique event. I can't wait!



Al with "Savannah" and "Echo"

Echo

The little black dog tucked under my arm in this picture is Echo as a puppy. Echo is now seven months old, and has made great strides towards becoming an assistance dog. Puppy raiser, Dee Hollerud, is providing monthly blog information for the Animal Wellness Center of Maple Grove's website, and each month a video is being posted showing Echo's progress in training.

I was personally impressed with what I saw and read when I visited the site. It made me proud. I would encourage you to especially watch the videos as a way to see, first-hand, the wonderful things our dogs are learning from our dedicated puppy raisers. Go to <http://www.animalwellnessmg.com> Enjoy! ♥

Dinah-mite

Teresa Munson and Diabetes Assist Dog Dinah by Diane W. Carr

Diabetes is a common, but often little understood disease. For many people with Type I diabetes, it is a predictable routine of balancing the intake of insulin with the food and exercise of the patient.

But for some, life can be anything but predictable. Even under the best of circumstances, their blood sugar levels can swing from dangerously low to dangerously high. A severe drop in blood sugar can quickly render someone unconscious. Extremely high levels wreck havoc on the kidneys, heart and other organs. These blood levels swings can occur with little or no warning.

Teresa Munson of St. Paul, Minn. is a nurse who is also a Type I diabetic. Although she is medically trained and diligent in her diabetes care, she still experiences extreme swings in her blood sugar levels. "I am prone to sudden drops in blood sugar," she tells Can Do Canines. She's found that the unpredictability of her blood sugars significantly impacts her day-to-day life as mom, wife, community volunteer and nurse. Diagnosed 5 years ago, Teresa soon found that she could not identify when her blood sugars drop to a dangerous level, a condition called hypoglycemia unawareness. Such drops and spikes can cause serious health problems and even death.

Blood sugar drops can hit hard. One day Teresa planned to work in her garden, having tested her blood sugar just before leaving the house. While her sugar level was normal when she went into the yard, a short time later she found herself passing out, desperately needing sugary food to return to normal. That time, her children were there to help. But they aren't always near and able to respond. Teresa's diabetes not only dictated much of her life but her whole family's lives as well. Her children were always on guard to notice any symptoms of a low blood sugar. Her husband Craig worried daily that a "crash" would come for Teresa when no one was around.

Teresa may never have learned of Diabetic Assist Dogs without her neighbors, Pat and Dee Dee Heffernan. At the Munson annual New Year Eve's party, they were talking with Teresa about her diabetes. After learning of Teresa's blood sugar problems, Pat and Dee Dee, being the great Can Do Canines

ambassadors that they are, immediately jumped at the chance to talk to Teresa about assistance dogs. With their support and encouragement, she applied to Can Do Canines for a Diabetes Assist Dog.

She never imagined how much freedom and security the program would bring, or how cuddly it would be.



Theresa and Dinah

Dinah, a Diabetes Assist Dog, is a sweet, lovable, 2 ½ year old yellow Labrador Retriever who came into Teresa and her family's life last fall. Dinah can smell when Teresa's blood sugars start to drop before she experiences any signs of trouble. Teresa and Dinah worked together, with the trainers at Can Do Canines, to become a team. Dinah quickly learned to identify Teresa's drops in blood sugars. During Dinah's first night at home she identified two dangerously low blood sugars, including one drop

that took place while Teresa was sleeping. She gives Teresa clear, specific warnings – by nudging her with her nose – when her sugar is low. In addition to sounding the alarm, Dinah is trained to fetch the emergency phone and to bring juice when needed. Though not specifically trained for the behavior, Dinah has also learned to recognize dangerously high blood sugars as well. Her family rightly calls her "Dinah-mite".

When asked about Dinah's immediate impact on her family, Teresa says that everyone could finally relax. Craig could go out of town without worrying that a tragedy was in the making. Her children got to resume the tasks of being children, not blood sugar guardians. Most importantly, Teresa says, is the independence she feels with Dinah. She can go anywhere and know that Dinah will alert her for dangerous changes in her blood sugar levels. Coworkers at the medical clinic where Teresa works love the fuzzy, four-foot glucose monitor. They tell her that Dinah also brings a sense of relief and security to them. They no longer fear that a closed door on Teresa's office is concealing a medical crisis.

Teresa has some advice to other diabetics. "Don't be afraid to try it" encourages Teresa. "The Diabetic Assist Dog program is wonderful and Can Do Canines is with you every step of the way". ♥

New Teams



Deb Swenson & Mobility Assist Dog Cyrus

"I'm getting out of the house and I am enjoying my life again."

Thank You

- Dog Source** - Amy Ross
- Field Trainer**- Kemlyn Block-Stockstill
- Vet Services**- Maryland Avenue Pet Hospital
- Puppy Raiser**- Sue Engelsman
- Foster Home**- Kathryn & Jayson Alexander

See their web-exclusive story at www.can-do-canines.org/newsletter



Nick Murray & Autism Assist Dog Castiel

"People don't always understand how great animals are for people and what a difference it makes. I hope that other families find the love and joy that we have."

Thank You

- Dog Source** - Karen Lindstrom
- Vet Services**- Arden Shoreview Animal Hospital
- Puppy Raiser**- Rob Carrick
- Foster Home**- The Turner Family

Read their story on page 5

A Whole Lot of Cuddling Went on at Vi's June 25th Puppy Shower

Nearly \$1,000 was raised in cash contributions and another \$1,000 worth of gifts were given at the shower for Vi's six puppies.



The committee organized fun games and activities, but the best thing was simply hugging a puppy.



Sarah Ehlert, Jennifer Burt, and Jessi Hiemer enjoy puppy snuggles

We want to thank Heather Heim, president of the Lake Elmo Jaycees and their club for hosting the event along with Can Do Canines Special Event Fundraising Committee members Jennifer Burt, Kelly Neal and Patty Wirz. ♥



Nine new black lab babies were born on July 6. Proud mom, Keetah, and babies are all doing well. Another puppy shower may be in our future!

A Perfect Fit

Thomas Durkee and Mobility Assist Dog Hattie by Karen Ziemniak

Thomas Durkee of Duluth, Minn., is an outgoing young man with quadriplegia. He was referred to Can Do Canines by a woman with a yellow Labrador Retriever who got her dog from Can Do Canines, and recommended the organization highly.

Thomas began using a power wheelchair at the age of 22 after a car accident. "I used to sit around my apartment watching TV and it was a pretty dreary day-to-day life," recalls Thomas. But things have changed since Mobility Assist Dog Hattie came into his life. "Now I'm more active, I can go outside and be more interactive with people. And I just like the fact that I feel responsible for something besides myself," he says.

Hattie, a black Labrador Retriever, makes it possible for Thomas to go outside by pressing a button for him which opens the elevator door, and then pressing the button inside. She also pushes handicap push plates to open the building doors. Being outdoors is one of Thomas's greatest pleasures. Before his accident, he loved doing anything outdoors - playing football, hockey and going deer hunting. He still hopes to partake in these activities someday. But for now, with Hattie by his side, he enjoys boating, taking walks with her, and fishing.

Hattie is also crucial for any emergencies Thomas might have. Thomas uses his chin to drive the wheelchair because he



Hattie delivers independence for Thomas

has limited use of his hands. If the chin control slides to either side or backwards, Hattie knows how to push it to the center or upright. She also knows how to press the emergency call button that Thomas has at night if he needs help.



Hattie positions Thomas' control lever

Hattie's ability and training has been nothing short of amazing for everyone, especially Thomas. "She is such a smart dog," he explains. "She pretty much caught onto every task after a couple of times. It was amazing how fast she picked up on commands. She's mild-mannered and well-behaved. I couldn't have asked for a better dog."

Thomas becomes visibly emotional when talking about the sponsors and volunteers who donate to Can Do Canines. "I want to say thank you very much. I'm thinking about possibly going to speak to donors with Hattie's trainer about trying to raise more money for Can Do Canines, because I would really like to see this cause continue on. It's a great thing they do." Indeed, Thomas can't say enough about the organization that gave him a new lease on life, as well as his wonderful companion. "She's a perfect fit for me. She's blended right into my lifestyle." ♥

Nick's Constant Companion

Nick Murray and Autism Assist Dog Castiel by Anne Ingvoldstad

Nick Murray is 11 years old, the middle child in a group of five active siblings in a happy blended family with parents Mikki and Greg of Minnetonka, Minn. Nick has Autism Spectrum Disorder and his family has adjusted their lives around caring for Nick and accommodating the challenges of raising a child with autism.

A primary concern for Mikki was Nick's safety. He has a tendency to bolt after things that catch his attention and he has no sense of fear, which is a dangerous combination. It was also difficult to take Nick places because he has trouble communicating. People did not always understand why Nick would not respond to them.

After learning about Can Do Canines from a family member in 2008, Mikki applied with three goals in mind: improving Nick's safety, helping him with socialization, and helping him to stay calm.

This spring Nick was paired with Castiel (Cass for short), a good-natured



Nick and Castiel

yellow Labrador Retriever who was the "teacher's pet" at Can Do Canines. Cass was a star student and earned his Canine Good Citizenship certification before he was even one year old.

Now Cass is Nick's constant companion. Nick lets Cass out in the morning, feeds him, walks him, and sleeps with him at night. With Cass in his room Nick sleeps more peacefully, without waking up in the night. Mikki says it is also great for Nick to have a buddy like all the other kids.

Cass has made it easier for Nick to go out in public because his calming influence means that there have been fewer meltdowns. Having an assistance dog also helps other people relate to Nick in a positive way because they have a better understanding of his situation.

Mikki's hope is that Can Do Canines can continue to change people's lives as her family's has been changed. "People don't always understand how great animals are for people and what a difference it makes. I hope that other families find the love and joy that we have." ♥



Nick and Castiel waiting patiently in line

17 Teams Celebrated at the May 21 Graduation



Seventeen very proud clients were recognized on stage at Can Do Canines for all of the hard work they have put in to becoming successful assistance dog partners.

Puppy Raisers and volunteers presented the dogs and each team was rewarded with a their paper and "nylabone diplomas".

Join us for our next graduation

NEW LOCATION Saturday, August 13, 2011, 1:00 pm **NEW LOCATION**
Earle Brown Heritage Center 6155 Earle Brown Drive, Minneapolis, MN 55430

New Teams



Kim Bloomer

& Mobility Assist Dog Tagg

"Every night when I go to bed, I lie on my back and Tagg puts his head on my shoulder. We talk about the day, good and bad, and I tell him goodnight and that I love him."

Thank You

Dog Source - Deb Carver

Puppy Raiser- The Heffernan Family

Foster Home- Inmates at Minnesota Correctional Facility at Faribault

Read their story on Page 7



Brock Dahlke

& Mobility Assist Dog Quincy

"I was impressed by how quickly Quincy and I worked together as a team and how well Quincy learned the specialized commands unique to my situation."

Thank You

Dog Source - Sievers Retrievers

Field Trainer- Bev DeChon

Puppy Raiser- Kathryn & Jayson Alexander

See their web-exclusive story at www.can-do-canines.org/newsletter

Tails of Independence Fundraising Luncheon

A Ripple in the Pond



Our Seventh Annual Luncheon was a stunning success with 325 people in attendance resulting in contributions and pledges totaling \$72,400 raised in support of Can Do Canines programs. Thank you to our dedicated Table Captains, volunteers, and speakers for putting on another wonderful program. Special recognition is given to our video production volunteer crew: MarySue Krueger, Carrie Maloney, Brian Schroeder, and Mark Falstad for volunteering so many hours of their time to produce some of the very best video we have ever seen!



Left to right: Guests Lu Shaughnessy, Kathy Sherwood, Janet Havlish, emcee MarySue Krueger, Carol Shaughnessy, Barbara Enzler, guest speaker Collin Shaughnessy, and Mobility Assist Dog Cher learned about Can Do Canines while enjoying a wonderful lunch.



Thanks to Nutrisource for providing food for our Can Do Canines in for final training!

Everything He Wanted

Jim Finley and Hearing Assist Dog Jewel

by Kari Martin

Imagine the shock of having someone standing in your home unannounced. What a fright that would give to anyone, but to Jim Finley of Shoreview, Minn, it was part of his life. Jim was born with profound hearing loss. Completely deaf in one ear, the hearing loss has progressed in his other ear as he got older. Three years ago, he received a cochlear implant, which helped him process some sounds but wasn't a complete solution. It can be difficult and tiring to process words and sounds all day, and Jim would turn off his implant when he got home to rest and relax. This however left him vulnerable to missing important sounds like his door bell and smoke alarm.



Jim and Jewel

While working as a manager at Lunds Holding Companies, a chance meeting at the Minneapolis store with a Can Do Canines volunteer got Jim thinking about what a Hearing Assist Dog could mean for him. His pet dog was great, but did not have the special training to reliably alert him to sounds he was missing. Friends worried when Jim would not respond to his doorbell. On more than one occasion they just walked into his house and startled him. That, coupled with his inability to smell things, including smoke or gas, prompted him to apply to Can Do Canines when his pet dog passed away last year.

Soon, Jim was matched with a young Labrador Retriever mix named Jewel. She was donated by Secondhand Hounds Rescue, and originally came from a shelter in Kansas. Jewel came to the program as a young dog, with no obedience or skills training, but was a quick study. She initially lived with volunteer foster provider Bev DeChon, who worked on her house manners, socialization and

obedience training. Jewel then went on to further training at the prison program in Faribault, where her trainers continued to work on her skills, including introducing her to sound training. Those that worked with Jewel describe her as a "very sweet dog that it only takes two minutes to fall in love with."

Jewel has a can-do attitude and exuberance in life, and though her training did not include a crash course in golf (Jim says she did not score well her first time out), she still manages to embrace every aspect of Jim's life. He looks forward to coming home to a joyful welcome every day.

Jewel now alerts Jim to sounds that he might otherwise not have heard, like a smoke alarm, doorbell, a timer, or an intruder – all vital sounds for Jim's safety and peace of mind. No more surprise visits with Jewel around!



Jim says he's impressed by all the hands-on collaboration among volunteers, the inmates at Faribault, and the field trainer, Joanne Nichols, in helping the team succeed. He says, "I thought I knew plenty from having Labs in the past, plus my mom was a dog breeder. I learned more from Joanne about dogs

Jewel touches Jim to alert him, then leads him to the sound, a visitor at the door

then I ever knew. With her great help and patience, we were able to achieve our goal to have Jewel alert me to sounds that were important to me. She was always available when I had questions."

Of Jewel, Jim says, "She is the best thing that has happened to me. She brought me life... she brought me everything I wanted and more!" ♥

A Priceless Gift

Kim Bloomer and Mobility Assist Dog Tagg by Laurie Carlson

Kim Bloomer and her husband, Ken, live in Elk River, Minn. Busy with work and life in general, Kim says that being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) six years ago greatly affected their way of life.

Now Kim tires easily, her balance is poor, and her reactions are slower. As a result, she drops items and falls more frequently. She notes that reduced physical strength and motor control make it difficult for her to get around; she deals with chronic pain as well. Throughout it all, friends and family commend Kim for staying positive and having a great outlook on life.

Kim and Ken compensated for her new challenges by adapting their vehicle to carry her scooter so she could still get around on her own. She sometimes uses arm canes. Still, the changes in her life made Kim anxious. "I was afraid to move around the house or be alone," she says. "Family and friends were very concerned for me. In January 2010, I became ill and lay on the floor for four hours before my husband came home, only because he 'felt' something was wrong. By the time we got to the hospital, I was very ill."

Then Kim met an old high school friend, Alicia, who also has MS. Alicia suggested that Kim consider getting an assistance dog. Alicia has Tanner, a Mobility Assist Dog, from Can Do Canines and recommended that Kim also apply. She did so in March 2010, and was approved for the program. In February 2011, she was matched with Tagg, a fun-loving, energetic, 3-year-old Australian Labradoodle. Training began and Kim quickly discovered Tagg's intelligence and desire to please.

"The biggest challenge was being firm with commands without sounding like I

was scolding him," Kim recalls. "And remembering all the commands he knows! I was amazed at how well Tagg responded to me and the depth of training the dogs go through before placement."

Now Tagg helps her by dragging the laundry bag downstairs, retrieving items Kim drops, pulling open the bathroom door and pulling the front door shut when they leave. "Most important," Kim says, "is that he gets an emergency phone for me if I need it, which makes me feel more secure. I've also regained my feeling of self worth."



Kim and Tagg

Flowers, full of excitement and pride with how well-behaved Tagg was during the trip and how secure he made her feel.

There's now a new ritual at the Bloomer household. "Every night when I go to bed, I lie on my back and Tagg puts his head on my shoulder," Kim says. "We talk about the day, good and bad, and I tell him goodnight and that I love him."

Kim thanks Tagg's Puppy Raisers, the Heffernan family, and his trainers. "I can never thank you enough for the amazing job you do with the dogs," she says. "You give a priceless gift to those in need." ♥

*We just certified our 350th team!
Watch for Shawn and Luke's story in our next issue.*

New Teams



**Kent Plumley
& Mobility Assist Dog Kashi**

"There wasn't really a reason to get up in the morning. She's changed that."

Thank You

Dog Source - Hayshaker Labradors
Puppy Raiser- Darrell & Julie Carlblom
Foster Home- Inmates at Minnesota Correctional Facility at Faribault

See their web-exclusive story at www.can-do-canines.org/newsletter



**Thomas Durkee
& Mobility Assist Dog Hattie**

"Now I'm more active, I can go outside and be more interactive with people. And I just like the fact that I feel responsible for something besides myself."

Thank You

Dog Source - Mary Holsen & Linda Wiedewitsch
Field Trainer- Dan Herals
Vet Services - Maryland Avenue Pet Hospital
Puppy Raiser- The MacKay Family

Read their story on page 4

Wish List

Dog Supplies

- ✓ Gift cards to pet supply stores
- ✓ **I.Click Training Clickers**
- ✓ Car Seat Belt Harnesses – All sizes
- ✓ Halti Head Collars
- ✓ Martingale collars
- ✓ Soft Treats (BillJac, Zukes, Pupperoni)
- ✓ **Giant Nylabones and lg. & med. Kongs**
- ✓ L or XL Vari-Kennels, new or gently used
- ✓ Frontline Flea and Tick Preventative
- ✓ Donated veterinary services
- ✓ Purebred puppies

Electronics

- ✓ **Mac computers (Minis, Macbooks, iMacs)**
- ✓ **PC Laptops**
- ✓ Mac OS X 10.5 licenses
- ✓ LCD TV, 37" or larger
- ✓ Home Theater system for meeting room

Automotive

- ✓ Gasoline cards
- ✓ Minivan
- ✓ Auto repair/maintenance
- ✓ Small Station wagon

Equipment

- ✓ Gas-powered power washer
- ✓ **6 and 8 ft. plastic folding tables**
- ✓ Office chairs
- ✓ Office cubicles
- ✓ **Commercial Convection Oven**
- ✓ Exercise Bike, Elliptical, Rower

Miscellaneous

- ✓ Gift cards to
 - grocery stores
 - office supply stores
 - Michaels (craft stores)
 - Party City
- ✓ Office supplies (paper, markers, stamps)
- ✓ Bleach, glass cleaner, laundry detergent
- ✓ Framed dog-related art

Building Materials

- ✓ **Small microwave**
- ✓ **Dorm size refrigerator**
- ✓ Kitchen cabinets and countertop
- ✓ Bathroom storage cabinet, small
- ✓ Gift certificates home improvement stores
- ✓ **Pipe and drape, black (6 - 8ft x 10 ft sections)**
- ✓ **Stage skirting, black, (24 inch x 32 ft)**
- ✓ **Stage Lighting**

Items in bold are our most pressing needs!

For more wish list items, please go to www.can-do-canines.org

A special thanks to all of you who previously supplied us with wish list items! You made our wishes come true! ♥



Our Dogs Fetch Amazing Things

Development News



Minnesota Renaissance Pet Gate - Volunteers Needed

Weekends from August 20 – October 2nd Plus Labor Day, September 5 and Festival Friday, September 30th

Help raise \$2,500 by working in the Pet Gate and checking in a variety of dogs visiting the festival. Receive free admission to the festival on the day you work, a \$6.00 food coupon and a ticket to come back another day. Minimum age is 16 (with an adult). Four hour morning or afternoon shifts are available. To volunteer, contact Patty Wirz at pattywirz@yahoo.com Sign up now, volunteer slots fill up fast!

Wine, Chocolate and Romance Weekend, September 17 & 18

Minnesota Renaissance Festival This fun, themed weekend will feature the 22nd Annual Charity Auction with 100% of proceeds benefiting Can Do Canines. Auction items include vineyard tours, hotel stays, specialized wines, theatre tickets, sports memorabilia and many more gifts for all ages. If you have an auction item to donate, contact Janet Cobus, or if you simply want to attend the event and bid on some of the great items, please go to the www.renaissancefest.com to find out more information and to buy tickets to the festival.

Yum Yum - It's Chocolate Time!

Yum Yum – It's Chocolate Time

Everyone loves a good chocolate bar! Would you help us sell our World's Finest Chocolate bars? You can check out a box of 50 and sell them for \$1.00 each. The organization earns .50 for each bar sold. They are delicious! Candy will be available at the Heel and Wheel on August 27 or in our office. Contact Jessica Nadeau now to reserve your box! 763-331-3000, Ext. 152 or jnadeau@can-do-canines.org



Name A Puppy Antics



Minnesota Jaycees raised \$3,000 to name a beautiful yellow Labrador Retriever, "Jaycee"

Name a Puppies Graduating August 13, 2011:

Kashi named by UBS Financial Services

We have puppies coming soon—won't you participate in this unique program to help name a puppy by raising a minimum of \$1,500 for school groups or \$2,500 for a service club or business. We can help you get started today!

2011 Phon-a-thon a Ringing Success

2011 Phon-a-thon a Ringing Success, but "Boy am I tired"

A wonderful group of 40 callers placed 1,860 calls for Can

Do Canines in May. Their

efforts raised \$20,753 in pledges from 183 contributors and \$425 from those who have

sent in a contribution from our "missed you" mailing". Thank you to all our volunteer callers for giving a few hours of your valuable time and the many generous donors for contributing this year. Great job everyone!



For information on any of the projects listed here, contact Development Director Janet Cobus: [jacobus@can-do-canines.org](mailto:jcobus@can-do-canines.org) or 763-331-3000 ext. 153

Welcome New Staff Member - Nancy Piotrowski

Nancy Piotrowski joined the Can Do Canines team in March as our new Puppy Program Coordinator. Her background includes 13 years in corporate finance, and six years teaching at Petsmart where she was promoted to be their Area Pet Trainer. Nancy is a member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers and she earned her CPDT designation through the Certification Council for Pet Dog Trainers. Nancy has also managed her own personal in-home pet training business.



Nancy says, "It has been exciting to begin working with Can Do Canines and our volunteers. It has been a joy

to get to know each and every one of the Puppy Raisers and Foster Families along with the puppies they are raising. My new position at Can Do Canines is the perfect job for me, as I have the opportunity to help make a difference in the lives of many people while working with these amazing dogs. It is my pleasure, and I am excited for the opportunities that are ahead for all of us."

Nancy lives in Dayton with her husband, Brian, and twin four year old boys, Tyler and Logan. Welcome Nancy! ❤️

Volunteers and Puppy Raisers

Thanks to all of our volunteers and puppy raisers— we couldn't do it without you!
Puppy Raisers are noted by a 🐾 beside their names

Sue Abrahamson
Wendy Adams
🐾 Diana Adamson
🐾 Brad & Valerie Addis
🐾 Jayson & Katherine Alexander
🐾 Mary & Jon Alexander
🐾 Linda Altergott
Tom Antikainen
Maddie Apold
Peggy Armstrong
🐾 Dianne & Doug Astry
The Bailey family
The Bandy family
🐾 Theresa & Keith Barnes
🐾 Bill Beddie
Kim & Kalli Bennett
Patricia Berg
🐾 Bobbi Blair
🐾 Darlene Blomberg
Jan Boe
Jamie Borgan
Mike Branch
Bob Branham
Sara Braziller
Darlene & Vern Breamer
Betty Brietkrietz-Miller & "Claire"
Kathy Broten
Troy & Adam Brouwers
Julia Buege Freeman
🐾 Don & Jean Burdeski
Lou Burg
Deb Burke & "Pepsi"
Jennifer Burt
Barbara Burwell
Manny Camilon
Julie Carlblom
🐾 Pia & Ben Carlsen
🐾 Dick & Nancy Carlson
🐾 Laurie Carlson
Diane Carr
Mike Carter
Verne Champion
Beth Cherryholmes
The Collins family
Mary Daggett
Nacia Dahl
🐾 Emily Danser
Jan Day & "Louie"
🐾 Bev DeChon
Breanna Demont
🐾 The Dion family
Janelle Dixon

Kandy Dorlack
🐾 The Doyon family
Judy Dunbar
🐾 Sarah Durant
Amber Dvorak
Elizabeth Eagle
Laurie & Ron Ehlert
🐾 Sara Ehlert
🐾 Mona Elder
Lia Enger
Galen Engholm
Jill & Jerry England
& "Hailey"
Marky Engler
Chad Engstrom & "Hazel"
Jean Euteneuer & "Lexie"
Connor Evertz
Mark Falstad
Deb Fauber & "Camille"
🐾 Mike Ferber
Stacey Ferguson
Tom Fiecke
Duane Finger
Kevin Florence
Leslie Flowers
John Fraedrich & "Griffin"
Sharyn & Ruth French
Bonnie Genin
🐾 Chris & Cheryl Gibbons
Christina Gilman
Marcia Gilman
Mark Given
Pam & Larry Goehring
Esther Graney
Hope & Darren Grangruth
🐾 Kathy Grant
Keith & Phil Gronhovd
Becky Groseth
Savannah Gruber
Sharolyn Hagen
Sue Hager & "Mattie"
Nancy Haley
🐾 Steve & Becky Hallan
The Hansen family
Terry Hansmeier
& "Stanley"
🐾 Mel & Brian Hanson
The Hanson-Nelson family
Wendi Harmsen
Ronnie & Richard Hartman
🐾 The Heffernan family
Heather Heim
Roxanne Henderson

🐾 Scott Henley
Dianne Hennes
Jesse Henning
The Herberg family
Al & Shelly Hiemer
Jessi Hiemer
Peter Hilger
Jack Hines
🐾 Laura & Matt Hofkens
Ingrid Hofmann
& "Bright"
🐾 Alicia & Hannah Holicky
🐾 The Hollerud family
Dawn Hughes
Dawn Imgrund
Anne Ingvoldstad
Karen Irwin
The Isaacson family
The Johannsen family
🐾 The Johnson family
🐾 Jen & Justin Kalvoda
Natalie Kane
Mary Kelley & "Brinks"
Bill Kempton
The Kendall family
🐾 Brian Klaas
Katherine Knauer
& "Summer"
Lisa Knazan
Don Knutson
Deb Koehnen
Ken Kolding
Terri Krake & "Brody"
MarySue Krueger
Victoria LaBerge
& "Newman"
🐾 Amber & Steve LaMourea
🐾 Julianne Larsen
🐾 Karen & Ray Larsen
🐾 Jeremy Larson
Nancy Laufer & "Capri"
Greg Lee & "AJ"
Morrie Liberman
Steve Linder
Joan Lisi McCoy
Austin Loeb
Frank & Judy Loken
Paul Loken
The Lomauro family
The Long family
Liz Lucast

Jody Ludden
Jan & Harold Lund
🐾 The MacKay family
Cindy Madsen
Carrie Maloney
Angela & Ryan Mann
Jean Martell
Kari Martin
Mike McCarthy
Scott McClure
Dick & Bonnie McGinnis
Michele & Shawn McLane
Gwen McMahan
Dr Lindsey Merkel
🐾 The Merkel family
Peter Morlock & "Guido"
Kelly Neal
🐾 Mary Nelson
Joanne Nichols
Julie Nielsen
Ron Norton
Heather Noyes
🐾 The Oeltjenbruns family
🐾 Betty Otto
Dee Otto
Jenny Parker
Janice Parrow
Sandy & Jon Pidde
Nancy Piotrowski
Kaitlyn Pladsen
Ann Platt
Wendy Poulsen
Paul Pranghofer
Maureen Pranghofer
& "Ally"
Kirsten & Erin Purvis
Sarah Quick
Mary Quist
🐾 Sachin Ranarath
The Reinardy family
Jared Rhatigan
Mary Rhatigan
& "Ebony"
🐾 Josey Robison
Connie Roehrich
Cori Rogers
🐾 The Ruppe family
🐾 Sharon Russell
🐾 Shirley Russo
🐾 Dave & Mary Sandstrom

Nancy & Curt Savstrom
🐾 Jerry Schendel
Allison Schildknecht
Brian Schroeder
🐾 Dora & Howard Schroeder
🐾 The Schroeder family
Darryl Scott
🐾 Stephanie & Seth Scott
🐾 The Sears family
Adrianna Shannon
Collin Shaughnessy
& "Cher"
Ian Sheppard
Kathy Sherwood
Laura Shirley
🐾 Dave & Marge Skeie
Dave Snyder
The Solei family
Melissa Stam
& "Kramer"
Sharon Steinbrecher
Ken & Judy Stenzel
& "Calvin"
Greg & Cat Stevens
Jenna Steacy
Travis Thiel
🐾 Melanie Thielke
Cindy Thorson Arnold
& "Blue"
Brian Toews
JoAnna Trumbull
Brian & Jane Trusinsky
Dawn Turner
🐾 Patty Van Landschoot
Sandy & Kevin Vance
Sue Wagner
The Wagner family
Kevin Walker
Elizabeth Washko
Len Washko
🐾 Laura & Adam Waudby
🐾 The Wedul family
Heidi Westerlund
Claralouise Wheeler
Michael Wheelock
Jeanne Wiger & "Baffin"
Allan Wiinamaki
🐾 The Willms family
Jodi Wisehart
& "Wilma"
Ron Wolff & "Freckles"
Meghan Wynne
Karne Ziemniak

New Teams



Theresa Munson & Diabetes Assist Dog Dinah

"The Diabetic Assist Dog program is wonderful and Can Do Canines is with you every step of the way."

Thank You

Dog Source - Tealwood Labradors & The Lenneman Family
Vet Services - Valley View Pet Hospital
Arden Shoreview
Animal Hospital
Puppy Raiser- The Lenneman Family
The Ehlert Family

Read their story on page 3

Dinger Meets the Driver



Can Do Canines puppy in training Dinger got to meet NASCAR driver A.J. Allmendinger during a recent visit to Best Buy in Richfield. A.J., and his wife, Lynne, recently made a generous donation to the Name a Puppy Program and chose the name Dinger for this smart little black lab. Dinger enjoyed hanging out in the pit and checking out the tires of A.J.'s number 43 Best Buy car.

Payroll Deduction Makes Giving Easy!

When you take advantage of payroll deductions to support Can Do Canines, you don't even need a stamp—the payroll department at work takes care of everything. A small gift, taken from each paycheck, can amount to a significant contribution to our organization. If your company offers matching funds, we can receive a gift from your employer as well.

Can Do Canines is proud to be a new member of Community Shares of Minnesota (CSMN), a workplace giving organization focused on creating a fair, just and equitable Minnesota. CSMN holds workplace giving campaigns at employers throughout Minnesota, including employees of the State of Minnesota, a number of cities, including Minneapolis and St. Paul, a variety of counties and many others employers. If your employer already includes CSMN as part of their campaign, you can designate

your pre-tax payroll deductions directly to Can Do Canines using either the EShares online system or paper designation forms, depending on what your employer offers. And if your employer does not yet include CSMN in their annual giving campaign, it's easy to set one up! Contact Maureen Driscoll, CSMN's Campaign Director, at 651 647-0440 x214 to set up an introductory meeting and demo of the EShares system.

If your employer sponsors a campaign through United Way, you can make a donation to Can Do Canines by using the payroll-deduction option called "donor choice." To make a contribution through the United Way, use the "other" line, mention "donor choice," and write our name and address: Can Do Canines, 9440 Science Center Drive, New Hope, MN 55428.

If you are employed by the federal government—whether in a military or a civilian position—you can make contributions via payroll deduction through the Combined Federal Campaign. Our CFC number is 67285.

If you choose to contribute through payroll deductions, please let us know so we can thank you and recognize your gift. This year, we expect work-place giving contributions to surpass \$30,000! Thank you for your generosity.



Volunteer Spotlight - Dee Hollerud

Dee Hollerud of Coon Rapids, Minn. heard about Can Do Canines through publicity the organization received when Senator Al Franken visited our facility. The Hollerud family, Dee, husband John, and kids -Bailey and Brent, began their volunteer adventure by puppy raising a young Labrador named Bruno and they never slowed down from there!

During the past 20 months since they began volunteering, Dee and her family have excelled in giving both time and her many talents. The family has provided short-term foster care for dogs and is raising their second puppy, Echo. Dee has taken on many new responsibilities. She is now a fixture at the facility answering phones and handling multiple office projects, too many to count!

Dee's sewing machine is always close at hand and she has shared her talents many times over. She helped with the patch replacement for graduate capes last summer and other sewing projects around

the office. She even spear headed the lions mane that "Sam", Al Peters' demo dog, sports at Lions Club events.

She joined both the Ambassador program and Speaker's Bureau to better represent Can Do Canines. Dee also educates the general public about Can Do Canines while she's out training with Echo.

Dee has shown real leadership in accepting the Chair position for the upcoming Fetching Ball Gala in November and by providing training to the new volunteers who help out at the front desk. She also has great recruiting talent. The rest of her family and some friends have become involved in volunteering with the organization because of Dee's enthusiasm.

We sincerely and whole-heartedly thank Dee for all the hard work and time she has spent helping Can Do Canines! We are truly fortunate to have Dee and her family in the Can Do Canines family. Thank you! ♥



The Hollerud Family

What about you?

Are you willing to give the gift of your time? We need help in the following areas:

- **Regular vehicle maintenance**
- **Facility maintenance**
- **Puppy Raisers (14-16 months)**
- **Foster families (2-4 weeks)**
- **Daytime office help**
- **Assistant for event planning**

Contact Volunteer Coordinator Laurie Carlson at learlson@can-do-canines.org or 763-331-3000 ext. 113.

June 26th Saint Paul Saints Game

Starting with Mary Rhatigan and Diabetes Assist Dog, Ebony, throwing out the first pitch, we all had a great time on a beautiful summer day! Thanks to Sharon Steinbrecher for organizing this effort again this year and to everyone that bought a ticket! ♥



GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

Donated By In Memory Of
 Mary Rebecca Adams Regis
 Andy & Marti Anderson
Dora Schroeder's Mother-in-Law
 Donna Applebaum Regis
 Susan Arneson.....Harley Duda
 Mary BabolikMilo J. Babolik, A hard
 working farmer with his dog at his side.
 Deborah & Richard Bancroft "Hank"
 Janet Cobus "Brandy" and "Lena"
 Ronald & Gretchen Diegnau.....
Kenneth Omodt
 Rita Eckert "Zelda"
 Sally Erickson Marie Roll
 Marcia Fritzmeier..... Dennis Silvernail
 Gary & Sue-Ann Garvis..... "Sunny"
 Bonnie Genin Peter Van Erp's Mother
 Teresa & Christian Hansen "Mortimer"
 Cheri Hanson Denali
 Mary Jackson Robert Jankowski
 Rebecca Josephs..... Mazie
 Donald Ofstedal & Jerald Lee..... "Rusty"
 Dennis Litfin "Chubby"
 Frank & Judy Loken Jeff Krantz
 Ian Moorehead "Maddie"
 Otertail Lions Esther Valencich
 Suzanne Sharken..... Enid Schons
 Robert & Jacqueline Singer "Zeke"
 Lucille Sukalo John Thorpe
 Lucille Sukalo LeRoy Stuber

In Memory Of Dan Dorsey
 Elizabeth Dorsey, Robert & Carol
 Pederson, Karen & Thomas Tiemens

In Memory Of Doug Wendler
 Judith & Steven Gelderman, Laura Johnson,
 Louann & George Keane, Michelle Sturtz

GIFTS IN HONOR OF

Donated By In Honor Of
 Luke Allison..... "Sadie"
 Almelund LionsDG Brian Toews and
 all his hard work with the Lions
 Bird Island Lions..... David Backes
 Jean Borgerding "Albert"
 Patricia Brenna.....Brinks
 Heather ClarkMy friend, Dave Strobel's,
 wonderful dog-helper named "Faith"
 Louise & John DonhamFliearman Boy's
 Birthdays and their new dog, "Kipper!"
 Roland and Alvera Franceschi
Michael Franceschi's Birthday, Cora
 Quinn's Birthday, Freddy Nick's Birthday
 Roland Franceschi... Drew Russell's Birthday
 Lisa Knazan
 Dolores Levendowski's Birthday
 Warren & Ruth Leininger
Linda Mosier and "Hamel"
 Lavonne Ludke "Mandy"
 Cheryl Osborne "Luke"
 Caneva Pamela.....Ben Fliearman
 Shawna & Michael Pesina "Reyna"
 Powers Robert..... Will
 Millie Segal..... BethAnn Segal's Birthday!
 Jaelyn Smith..... Roberta Swissler



**We make a
 living by what
 we get. We
 make a life by
 what we give.
 Winston
 Churchill**

This "never money" could also be the beginning of your future legacy. By earmarking dollars for charitable purposes that you know you are unlikely to spend, you could create an important resource that can be the foundation of your future charitable gifts – the foundation of your Foundation, if you will.

For more information on how to leverage your "never money" for the benefit of Can Do Canines, contact Janet Cobus at [jacobus@can-do-canines.org](mailto:jcobus@can-do-canines.org) or 763-331-3000 ext. 153. ♥

Never Money

Do you have a sum of money that you know you will never spend? Maybe your home is paid for and your income sources are more than enough to meet your needs. If so, those dollars that you are confident you will never spend might be referred to as your "never money".

Most often "never money" just sits there in an investment or savings account until a time comes when it is transferred out to a beneficiary, distributed as part of an estate, or is consumed by taxes.

New Teams



Jim Finley & Hearing Assist Dog Jewel

"She is the best thing that has happened to me. She brought me life... she brought me everything I wanted and more!"

Thank You

Dog Source - Second Hand Hound Rescue

Field Trainer- Joanne Nichols

Puppy Raiser- Bev DeChon

Foster Home- Inmates at Minnesota Correctional Facility at Faribault

Read their story on page 6

Trainers' Corner

What Will I Be When I Grow Up?



At Can Do Canines, we believe that every puppy should have the opportunity to choose his or her own career. Much like your own children, a puppy's interests and talents change over time. That is why we do not predetermine that this puppy will be a mobility dog or that puppy will be an autism dog when they are young. Rather, we wait until they are mature enough to come in for final training before their career is decided.

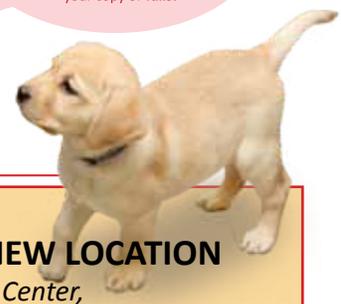
Just like children go off to college, our dogs come to "puppy college". At that time they experience all of our programs and Can Do Canines trainers learn what they love to do and what they do best. Only then will they be matched with a client and learn the specific skills that individual needs to become more independent.



9440 Science Center Drive
New Hope, MN 55428

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Visit me online!
You can read and share
Tails from Minnesota online and
receive every issue in your email inbox! Go
to www.can-do-canines.org/newsletter
and tell us how to deliver
your copy of *Tails!*



The Fetching Ball Come, Sit, Play



Saturday, November 5, 2011
Earle Brown Heritage Center,
Brooklyn Center MN
6:00 p.m.

Tickets are going fast...for the hottest fashion show in town... You won't want to miss this one-of-a-kind Pups and People Fashion Show representing designs that only the best dressed assistance dogs will be wearing during each month of the year in Minnesota. You can also kick off your shoes and dance to the rock and blues sounds of "Big Toe and the Jam" with our very own "party poodle"! Natalie Kane of WCCO-TV will emcee this unique event that also sports a silent and live auction, wine toss, celebrity shakers at the dogtini bar and much, much more! What a fun way to raise funds for Can Do Canines assistance dog programs! We still have sponsorship opportunities available and you can purchase individual tickets or purchase a reserved table now by ordering online at www.fetchingball.com or calling the development office at 763-331-3000, Ext. 153 for more information. *Come have a ball!!!* ♥

Upcoming Events

NEW LOCATION August 13 Graduation, 1:00 p.m. **NEW LOCATION**
at Earle Brown Heritage Center,
6155 Earle Brown Drive, Minneapolis, MN 55430

- August 18 *Tails to Tell Tour*, 7:00 p.m.
- August 27 Heel and Wheel, 10:30 a.m.
- September 13 *Tails to Tell Tour*, 10:00 a.m.
- October 1 *Tails to Tell Tour*, 10:00 a.m.
- November 5 Fetching Ball

* All *Tails to Tell* tours take place at our facility,
located at 9440 Sevice Center Drive, New Hope, MN 55428
Please call our office at 763-331-3000 or email info@can-do-canines.org to reserve your spot!

18TH ANNUAL HEEL AND WHEEL WALK SATURDAY, AUGUST 27 - CHESHIRE PARK, MINNETONKA

Freedom Sponsor



Spring Lake Park Lions
Plymouth Lions
Rogers Lions



Peace of Mind Sponsor



Independence Sponsor



A Heel and Wheel brochure is enclosed in the center of this issue of Tails from Minnesota! ♥

Assistance Sponsor

ADOGO Pet Hotel

Register online at www.heelandwheel.com